



U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

Conserving the Biological Diversity of the Great Basin, Eastern Sierra, and Mojave Desert

Frequently Asked Questions

90-Day Finding for 10 Great Basin Butterflies

Q. What are the 10 Great Basin butterflies included in the 90-day finding?

A. The 10 Great Basin butterflies included in the 90-day finding are: Baking Powder Flat blue butterfly (*Euphilotes bernardino minuta*), bleached sandhill skipper (*Polites sabuleti sinemaculata*), Carson Valley silverspot (*Speyeria nokomis carsonensis*), Carson Valley wood nymph (*Cercyonis pegala carsonensis*), Steptoe Valley crescent spot (*Phyciodes cocyta arenacolor*), White River Valley skipper (*Hesperia uncas grandiosa*), Mattoni's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes pallescens mattonii*), Mono Basin skipper (*Hesperia uncas giulianii*), and Railroad Valley skippers, (*Hesperia uncas fulvapalla*) and (*Hesperia uncas reeseorum*).

Q. Why did the Service complete a 90-Day finding for the Great Basin butterflies?

A. On January 29, 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received a petition from WildEarth Guardians requesting that 10 Great Basin butterflies in Nevada and California be listed as threatened or endangered and critical habitat be designated under the Endangered Species Act. Primary threats to these butterflies, asserted in the petition include: water development, agriculture, livestock grazing, pesticide use, climate change, inadequate existing regulatory mechanisms, small populations, and limited distribution.

Q. What was the result of the skipper butterfly 90-Day finding?

A. The Service has determined that four of the Great Basin butterflies: the Baking Powder Flat blue butterfly, bleached sandhill skipper, Steptoe Valley crescent spot, and White River Valley skipper, may warrant federal protection as a threatened or endangered species. The Service will now undertake a more thorough status review of the butterflies to determine whether to propose adding the subspecies to the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants. The Service also determined no further action will be taken on the following six butterflies: Carson Valley silverspot, Carson Valley wood nymph, Mattoni's blue butterfly, Mono Basin skipper, and two Railroad Valley skippers.

Q. Does the substantial 90-day finding mean the Service will list the four butterflies under the Endangered Species Act?

A. No. The 90-day finding is the first step in a process that triggers a more thorough review of all the biological information available.

Q. Where do the four Great Basin butterflies occur?

A. The Baking Powder Flat blue butterfly occurs in Lincoln and White Pine Counties in Nevada; the bleached sandhill skipper occurs in Humboldt County, Nevada; the Steptoe Valley occurs in White

Pine County, Nevada; and the White River Valley skipper occurs in Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties in Nevada.

Q. Where can I find more information about the skipper butterfly and the 90-Day finding?

A. For further information about the Great Basin butterflies and this finding contact: Jill Ralston, Acting State Supervisor, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office by mail at 1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234, Reno, NV, by telephone (775-861-6300), or by facsimile (775-861-6301). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339, or visit the Service's web site at <http://www.fws.gov/nevada>

Q. How can the public or any interested party provide information on the four Great Basin butterflies?

A. The finding will publish in the *Federal Register* on October 5, 2011. Written comments regarding the four Great Basin butterflies proposal may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments to Docket No. [FWS-R8-ES-2010-0097].
- U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. [FWS-R8-ES-2010-0097]; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.

Comments must be received within 60 days, on or before December 5, 2011. The Service will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means the agency will post any personal information provided through the process. The Service is not able to accept email or faxes.